survey was commissioned by the Government of India and conducted by Social and Research Institute, a unit of International Marketing Research Bureau (SRI-IMRB) in July-August, 2005 with the aim of assessing the number of out-of-school children across the country.

As per the findings of the survey, the number of out of school children in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh was 31.77 lakhs and 29.95 lakhs respectively. This number has now reduced to 21.20 lakhs in Bihar and 7.86 lakhs in Uttar Pradesh as per State Reports as of March, 2007.

Context specific interventions for children who are "hard to reach" such as bridge courses, learning centres with flexible timings, seasonal hostels, home based education, mobile schools, have been taken up under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Programme. The Government of India has undertaken 19 orientation and capacity building workshops with States/UTs with illustrative case studies of good practices, to encourage State/districts to do such context specific interventions.

Certificates/degrees of IIPM

2802. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the value of certificates/degrees issued by Indian Institute of Planning and Management (IIPM) for applying for a post in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) or Government's departments;

(b) whether conducting of MBA/BBA courses without the approval of AICTE and UGC is illegal; and

(c) if so, the legal recourse Government propose to take against IIPM, instead of issuing advisory to students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Any qualification awarded by the said institution has no value under the relevant laws in force.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The AICTE has issued show cause notice to the Indian Institute of Planning and Management (IIPM) and placed the name of the above institution in the list of unapproved technical institutions running technical courses without approval of AICTE. The IIPM has also filed a writ petition before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court challenging the show cause notice issued by the AICTE. The matter is *sub-judice*.

Seats in IIMs and IITs

†2803. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of seats available in IIMs and IITs at present;

(b) whether the number of seats has been increased to accommodate the backward castes;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have any proposal to increase the number of IIMs and IITs in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Total number of seats available in IIMs and IITs at present are 1440 and 11012 respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Setting up of new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are under consideration of the Government for the Eleventh Five Year Plan which is under formulation.

Research in universities

†2804. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the research has been separated from the universities in the country during the past few years and because of it major researches are not being carried out in the universities;

(b) if so, the efforts made to promote research in the universities during the last three years;

(c) the total amount spent thereon; and

(d) the details of efforts made to accommodate researchers in the universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) (a) No, Sir.

(b) In order to promote Basic Science Research in Indian Universities, a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.M. Sharma was constituted in March, 2005 by the Central Government. The recommendations of the Task Force have been accepted for implementation through the University Grants Commission.

(c) and (d) The UGC has introduced a number of schemes for promotion of Research in universities and colleges. The amounts spent on these schemes during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 were Rs.15255.27 lakh, Rs.16200.27 lakh and Rs.25021.74 lakh respectively.

Universities in the country

†2805. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are only 350 universities for the entire population of the country and most of them are either private or their reputation is not good or they are not recognized by the University Grants Commission;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.